

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 01112 220757Z

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ACTION FSI-01

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R 220706Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8064

UNCLAS BUCHAREST 1112

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSI, RO

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF COL. HARLAN C. CHASE, FSI SENIOR SEMINAR

REF: A) STATE 046744; B) BUCHAREST 0954

1. EMBASSY OFFICER MET WITH MARINEL POPA, MANAGER OF OVERSEAS DEPARTMENT, ROMANIAN MINISTRY OF TOURISM, TO DISCUSS ITINERARY DESCRIBED REFTEL A. POPA SAID HE HAD RECEIVED LETTER FROM RAIESCU COVERING SIMILAR GROUND, BUT NOTED THAT LETTER WAS "INFORMATIONAL" ONLY AND DID NOT REQUIRE MINISTRY TO TAKE ACTION.

2. ACCORDINGLY, WE ARE REQUESTING MINISTRY TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CAR (VOLKSWAGEN WITHOUT DRIVER, TO BE PICKED UP AT AIRPORT ON ARRIVAL), APPROPRIATE HOTEL RESERVATIONS, AND INTERVIEWS WITH TOURISM OFFICIALS BOTH IN BUCHAREST AND ENROUTE. EMBASSY OFFICER WILL MEET AT AIRPORT AND PROVIDE ITINERARY AND OTHER MATERIALS.

3. ITINERARY WILL BE AS DESCRIBED REFTEL A, ONLY MODIFICATION BEING MORE DIRECT ROUTE ON SUCEAVA-BRASOV LEG OF TRIP. ORIGINAL ROUTE THROUGH BISTRITA AND SIBIU IS WELL OVER 500 KILOMETER OVER MOUNTAIN ROADS AND WOULD ENTAIL ENTIRE DAY OF DRIVING, WITH NO TIME FOR STOPS ENROUTE. BASIC HOTEL COSTS WILL BE PREPAID AND SINGLE BILL WILL BE PRESENTED FOR ENTIRE AMOUNT, WHICH CAN BE PAID (IN DOLLARS) BEFORE DEPARTURE FOR CONSTANTA OR AFTER ARRIVAL BACK IN BUCHAREST. POPA ALSO HAD ASSEMBLED SOME PRELIMINARY DESCRIPTIVE MATERIAL AND DATA ON ROMANIAN TOURISM AND SAID ADDITIONAL DETAILS WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE DURING MEETING WITH TOURISM OFFICIALS IN BUCHAREST APRIL 12.

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4. MINISTRY OF TOURISM MAY OFFER GUIDE, FREE OF CHARGE, FOR

ENTIRE TRIP. IF OFFERED, WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT COL. CHASE ACCEPT,
SINCE SCHEDULE IS STILL QUITE TIGHT AND EXPERIENCED GUIDE WILL
PROVE USEFUL IN LOCATING APPROPRIATE TOURISM OFFICIALS TO INTERVIEW
AT EACH STOP.

5. REGRET THAT ROMANIAN SCHOOLS WILL BE CLOSED FOR SPRING VACATION
DURING PERIOD OF TRIP, HENCE EMBASSY UNABLE ARRANGE CLASSROOM VISIT
FOR MRS. CHASE.
BARNES

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